John Knox & Mary Stuart

In his first interview with the Queen (at Holyrood) when she accused him of disaffection towards her Knox replied that she should "find him dutiful and obedient wherever his conscience would allow him". She complained of the exception, and talked in the Stuart style of the obligation of subjects.
He answered by instancing the Jews under the Babylonian princes and the early Christians under the emperors.
"But they resisted not with the sword" she said.
"God madam; he replied, had not given them the means"
"Then, you think subjects having power may resist their princes; she said.
"If the princes exceed their bounds, Madam" was his answer, and do against that wherefore they should be obeyed, there is no doubt that they may be resisted even by force. For there is neither greater honor nor greater obedience to be given to kings or princes than God has commanded to be given to fathers and mothers; but so it is that the father may be stricken with a frenzy, in which he would slay his own children.
Now, Madam, if the children arise, join themselves together, apprehend the father, take the sword and other weapons from him, and finally bind his hands, and keep him in prison till the frenzy be past.

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think ye, Madam, that the children do any wrong. It is even so with princes that would murder the children of God that are subject unto them. Their blind zeal is nothing but a mad frenzy, and therefore to take the sword from them, to bind their hands, and to cast them into prison, till that they be brought to a more sober mind, is no disobedience against princes, but just obedience, because it agreeth with the will of God."

From Rev' Dr Mc Crie's Life of John Knox.

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